



New Dexa Ordering Guidelines

Message to Providers:

The practice of performing axial skeleton and peripheral exams on the same day came into practice many years ago and recently guidelines have changed due to both cost and radiation exposure to patients. At Augusta Health we are making changes to DEXA exam guidelines supported by CMS and the ACR Image Wisely Initiative. **Effective April 10, 2023 please order the following:**

77080 DUAL-ENERGY X-RAY ABSORPTIOMETRY (DXA), BONE DENSITY STUDY, 1 OR MORE SITES; AXIAL SKELETON (EG, HIPS, PELVIS, SPINE)

- 77080 IS A STANDARD DEXA AND INVOLVES IMAGES OF THE SPINE AND HIP. It does not include a forearm. This will be the standard protocol for DEXA for Augusta Health Care beginning April 10, 2023. Orderable: MAM DEXA AXIAL SKELETON

77081 DUAL ENERGY X-RAY ABSORPTIOMETRY (DXA) BONE DENSITY STUDY, 1 OR MORE SITES; APPENDICULAR SKELETON (PERIPHERAL) (EG, RADIUS, WRIST, HEEL)

- 77081 is an option if the spine and hip cannot be imaged for some reason, however it cannot be performed in conjunction with code 77080 per CMS guideline. It must be performed on a different day. Orderable: MAM DEXA PERIPHERAL

EXAMPLE: Patient is scheduled for a standard DEXA (spine and hip). Once the exam is completed, it is determined that a good dictation cannot be performed because of metal in the area from either bilateral hip replacements or metal in a patient's lower back. The radiologist will suggest the patient return for an additional study (77081 Peripheral DEXA).

If you have questions, please contact Margaret Zimmer:

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